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EAST KESTEVEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1947

JOHN W. SCHOLEY, M.B., Ch.B.

Including the
Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
A. A. MAXWELL, M.I.P.C., M.S.I.A.

STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

JOHN W. SCHOLEY, M.B., CH.B.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT:

ARCHIBALD A. MAXWELL, M.I.P.C., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR:

JOHN A. F. SAVILLE, M.S.I.A.

CLERK / ASSISTANT:

PETER BIRD.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE EAST KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MARKET PLACE,
SLEAFORD.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1947.

The statistics here submitted seem to call for little comment.

The health of the inhabitants of the District is still good and the low figure for diphtheria cases shows the value of immunisation; and it is estimated that 85% of the child population of the District has been protected in this way. Measles and Scarlet Fever, however, had increased incidence during this year and a nationwide epidemic of acute polimyelitis only gave rise to 8 cases in this District, which is particularly gratifying.

No important changes in administration need to be recorded and as stated in my last report the pressing need is, of course, the provision of additional houses, which is constantly receiving your attention.

I must record my appreciation of the work of all members of your Public Health Staff, the Clerk to the Council and other Officials, and thank the Members of the Council for their goodwill and encouragement in my endeavours.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN W. SCHOLEY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

14th October, 1948.

NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
IN EAST KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT DURING
1945, 1946 and 1947.

				1945	1946	1947
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	14	6	21
Diphtheria	...	...	...	3	2	3
Measles	...	...	...	61	3	430
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	10	14	53
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	5	10
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	—		4	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	3	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1	2	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1	—	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	—	—	2
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	—	—	8
Malaria	...	...	...	—	—	5
<hr/>				—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	...	95	39	542
<hr/>				—	—	—

BIRTH RATES.

CIVILIAN DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING 1947.

POPULATION 1947. (Registrar-General's Figure). 16,400.

No. of Live Births	Male	Female	Legiti-	Illegiti-	No. of Still Births	No. of Births	Male	Female	Legiti-	Illegiti-	No. of Deaths	Male	Female	Total
	...	...	mate.	mate.			...	...	mate.	mate.		Male	Female	96
	201	17	3	204			...	...	3	1	4			
	166	—	17	183			Female	Female	7	1	8			
	367	20	—	387			—	—	—	—	—			
	—	—	—	—			10	2	—	—	12			186

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE. E.K.R.D.C.	England & Wales.	BIRTH RATE. E.K.R.D.C.	England & Wales.	DEATH RATE. E.K.R.D.C.	England & Wales.	DEATH RATE. E.K.R.D.C.	England & Wales.
43.9	41	23.5	20.5	23.5	20.5	11.3	12.0

DEATH RATES PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population. Live Births	DEATH RATES PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.						Rates per 1,000 Live Births. Deaths under one year of age.	
	All Causes	Still Births	Typhoid & Para-Typhoid Fever	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Diphtheria	
E.K.R.D.C. England & Wales ...	23.5	0.73	11.3	—	—	—	—	0.11
	20.5	0.50	12.0	—	—	0.02	0.01	0.09

NUMBER AND CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1947.

			Males	Females	Total
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Resp. System	...	...	4	2	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	1	—	1
Influenza	...	...	—	2	2
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	1	—	2	3	
Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph (m)	...	1	—	1	
Uterus (f)	...	—	2	2	
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	1	2	3	
Cancer of breast	...	...	—	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	...	...	15	11	26
Diabetes	...	...	1	1	2
Intra-cran. Vascular Lesions	...	...	8	9	17
Heart Disease	...	...	25	18	43
Other disease of Circ. System	...	3	5	8	
Bronchitis	...	...	4	2	6
Pneumonia	...	...	2	5	7
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	3	—	—	3
Appendicitis	...	...	—	1	1
Diarrhoea under two years	...	1	1	2	
Other digestive diseases	...	...	4	3	7
Nephritis	...	...	3	3	6
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	1	—	1
Premature birth	...	...	—	1	1
Other maternal causes	...	...	—	3	3
Con. Mal: Birth Injuries:					
Infantile diseases	...	3	3	6	
Suicide	...	...	—	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	...	1	—	—	1
Other violent Causes	...	5	2	7	
All other causes	...	9	8	17	
ALL CAUSES	...	96	90	186	

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

18, NORTHGATE,

SLEAFORD.

14th October, 1948.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The past year has seen very little progress in the relaxation of restrictions for providing housing accommodation for the population, but despite this, the Council have proceeded with their housing programme by acquiring sites and the erection of traditional and prefabricated houses and the conversion of former military hutments.

The present conditions have not made it possible to increase the work of repairs to the many houses which have suffered neglect for the past ten years, in fact many materials for house repair, have become more difficult, and much patience is necessary in explaining to tenants the reason for delay in abating dampness caused by missing spoutings, defective roofs, etc.

With regard to milk production the cattle and the buildings, and the methods of production are receiving strict supervision, but I think a legal standard of cleanliness for raw milk is overdue.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Medical Officer of Health, The Clerk to the Council, his deputy, and members of the Council's staff for their assistance and co-operation, and also to the personnel of this department for their loyalty and co-operation.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. A. MAXWELL.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND
CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION.

In my report for 1946 I drew your attention to the inadequate and inefficient methods of purification of sewage and during this year I have adopted for all new drainage, not connected to the public sewer or where connected to the public sewer with no treatment, a septic tank and filter before the same is allowed to discharge into the dykes. The complaint regarding the builders failing to notify the laying of new drains for testing has been obviated during the year and few repeat visits were needed. The general drainage and sewerage of the district has been the subject of consideration by the Council and as you are all aware, schemes are being prepared to provide efficient disposal and treatment works.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Over 40 conversions of vaults to water carriage were carried out during the year. The cleansing of vaults in the area including Schools, is becoming a serious problem despite the fact that the Council have provided sanitary carts in various townships for the use of the inhabitants, but the question of obtaining contractors for this work is indeed a problem. I am of the opinion that serious consideration must be given by the Council at an early date to the purchase of a cesspool emptier to deal with this work.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This work has proceeded throughout the year without serious complaint and I have ceased to use a number of the village dumps, so centralising tipping which can be properly attended to by the Council's employees. As I mentioned in my last year's report the question of a central depot is greater today than ever before, and steps should be taken to obtain a site for the erection of a garage, workshop and store sheds.

A weekly collection of household refuse is carried out at Billinghay, Heckington and Ruskington.

During the year the sale of salvaged materials realised the sum of over £300.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary accommodation of schools has been the subject of a number of conferences between the County Education Authorities and myself. The Education Committee asked me to prepare a scheme for the emptying of the vault and pail type closets, but owing to labour difficulties and lack of suitable vehicles, it has not been found possible to put the scheme into operation.

A complete inspection of all the schools in the area was carried out by this department and the County Health Inspector's attention drawn to all existing defects.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER.

A great deal of work has been done under this heading during the year in bringing cowsheds up to date. All new entrants to the trade are being encouraged to start with good buildings and the improvements carried out have been encouraging.

No. of Registered Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	31
No. of Wholesale Purveyors on Register	...	...	184	
No. of inspections of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk-shops	...	...	...	217

Several defects or contraventions brought to the attention of the owners and occupiers, were remedied.

BAKEHOUSES.

The bakehouses in the area have been regularly inspected and in only two cases were there any cause for complaint, and these were rectified after my first visit. The standard of cleanliness in the bakehouses in this area is indeed very high considering the type of buildings used. In no case was any warning necessary for dirty or filthy utensils. Several structural improvements have been effected as a result of advice given.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

A small amount of trouble, at the only knacker's yard registered in the area, through infestation of rats was experienced during the year, and after the making of representations to the owner and the occupier, this was abated.

CAMPING SITES.

There are a number of camping sites in the area which are used under licence, but the necessity of camping sites in this area cannot be supported.

RAG FLOCK ACTS.

There are no premises in the District requiring attention under these Acts.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There is no slaughtering in this District now with the exception of cottagers' pigs for human consumption but these are notified and during the year 621 carcases were inspected.

During the year many articles of foodstuffs were inspected at the request of various retailers and the summary below gives details of the amounts dealt with as unfit:—

Type of Foodstuff.		Weight lbs.	Reason.
Tinned Meats	...	1,078	Blown, Punctured, Rusted and damaged by fire.
Tinned Vegetables	...	439	Do.
Tinned Jam	...	88	Damaged by fire.
Tinned Soups	...	146	Do. Punctured, Blown.
Cereals	...	235	Damaged by fire.
Flour and Custard Powders	559	...	Do.
Biscuits	...	88	Do.
Honey	...	33	Do.
Tinned Fish	...	120	Do. Punctured, Blown.
Tinned Milk	...	83	Do.
Dried Potatoes	...	2	Damaged by fire.
„ Fruit	...	95	Do. and Mouldy.
„ Eggs	...	3	Damaged by fire and water.
Confectionery	...	28	Do.
Cocoa	...	21	Do.
Coffee	...	14	Do.
Miscellaneous	...	90	Blown, punctured, rusty and damaged by fire.
2 Gilt Pigs	...	684	Generalised Tuberculosis.
TOTAL	...	3,806 lbs.	

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

During the year 24 samples of water have been taken and sent for analysis. In a number of instances bacteriological examination has not proved satisfactory and the matter has been referred to your Water Engineer for action, but the purity of the water supply is a very important matter and samples will still be taken from all water supplies in the area at regular intervals and reports submitted to you.

DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES.

During the year two Council Houses and four private houses have been disinfested for fleas and bugs. The method used was D.D.T. solution and Zaldecide and in only one instance was a repeat visit necessary. Several houses were found to be seriously infested with cockroaches and a portion of the floors were raised and the houses treated on three occasions before these pests were eliminated.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

This work is relatively easy as most of the shops in the District are one-man or family businesses. No action was deemed necessary during the year.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

In co-operation with the Rodent Officer appointed by the Ministry of Food all the refuse tips in the area have been treated. Several large kills were reported from Ruskington Tip. On the whole, rat infestation of the District is being kept under control and there is no need for any alarm in the increase of these rodents.

OUTWORKERS' PREMISES.

No notifications were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories regarding premises used for outworkers.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary in this Section during the year.

CANAL BOATS.

No canal boats are registered with this Authority and therefore no action was necessary.

HOUSING.

The housing situation in the district since my last report has improved slightly with the erection of 38 traditional houses, 60 prefabricated bungalows and the conversion of 34 ex-Royal Air Force hutments at Martin Moor. 25 houses were also built by private enterprise and the Council are still progressing with schemes to provide accommodation for the inhabitants of the district. The labour situation has not improved materially and in many cases labour is employed for improvements to farm buildings, where in my opinion it would have been better employed on the repair of houses for the population. As I mentioned in my last Annual Report the rents of many of the houses in the district are ridiculously low, and in all fairness to both the tenant and the landlord I cannot see when we deal with these houses under the Housing Acts how major repairs and reconstruction can be carried out at reasonable cost and as an economic proposition for the owners.

The progress of the Rural Housing Survey has been satisfactory in view of the large amount of work carried out by the department, but the question of this survey and the classification of these houses, especially when the shortage of labour and materials are so acute, is in my opinion, premature because when these houses have to be dealt with under the Housing Acts, inspections will again have to be made to check and verify the details.

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES.

There are seven fish friers and eleven ice cream vendors in the area. These businesses are conducted in a satisfactory manner and no complaint could be found as to the cleanliness and methods used to ensure that the food was handled in a hygienic manner. Structural alterations have been carried out to a number of premises to bring them up to a higher standard. There is only one large food manufacturing premises in the area which is situate at Ruskington, and the only remarks that can be passed here is that this factory and the methods used are models in cleanliness and hygienic preparation of food, and the comfort of the employees appears to be well looked after by the management. At a number of places in the area, pickling and bottling of vegetables is carried out in home factories, and by Public Notice persons concerned have been instructed to comply with registration requirements. Ice Cream vendors in the area are complying with the Heat Treatment Regulations by using a complete cold mix or selling prepacked ice cream. Several vendors have placed orders for heat treatment equipment.

PUBLIC HOUSES, RESTAURANT AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Inspections have been made at a large number of licensed premises and catering establishments in the area. In the licensed premises, the sanitary accommodation in a large number of cases is of primitive arrangement and a schedule of proposed reconstruction of same has been prepared and submitted to the owners of the various premises concerned. No action was necessary in dealing with establishments used for catering in the District, and informal requests for improvement were complied with without recourse to statutory action. In the case of the licensed houses, the brewery companies will carry out improvements recommended, as soon as building licences can be obtained.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Ten informal notices were served re defective structures under the Factories and Workshops Acts and were complied with. Four notices for cleansing of sanitary conveniences were served and no further action was necessary on same. In a number of cases no abstract of the Factories and Workshops Act were displayed and attention of the proprietors was drawn to this and compliance was observed.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

A number of cases of Rivers Pollution occurred during the year and the same was dealt with in conjunction with the County Health Inspector who served Notices under the Rivers Pollution Act.

PUBLIC VEHICLES.

No action has been found necessary under this heading — several operators treat their vehicles with D.D.T. at frequent intervals.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

I am pleased to report that, with the exception of an outbreak of measles, during the year, this District was fairly free from Infectious Diseases. All cases reported were investigated and the houses disinfected.

RESULTS OF WATER ANALYSIS DURING 1947.

Date.	Parish.	Where Taken.	Result.
17. 1.47.	Leasingham	Public Supply	Satisfactory
17. 1.47.	do.	do.	do.
17. 1.47.	do.	do.	do.
18. 3.47.	Scredington	do.	do.
15. 3.47.	Heckington	do.	do.
2. 4.47.	Wilsford	do.	Unsatisfactory
14. 5.47.	Scredington	Shallow Well	do.
14. 5.47.	Wilsford	Public Supply	Satisfactory
14. 5.47.	South Rauceby	do.	Unsatisfactory
20. 5.47.	Scopwick	do.	Satisfactory
20. 5.47.	Dorrington	do.	do.
21. 5.47.	Heckington	do.	do.
26. 6.47.	Blankney (Barff)	do.	Just passable quality
26. 6.47.	Ashby de la Launde	do.	Satisfactory
26. 6.47.	Leasingham	do.	do.
26. 8.47.	Billinghay	do.	do.
26. 8.47.	Timberland	do.	do.
26. 8.47.	Blankney (Barff)	do.	Just passable quality
17. 9.47.	Helpingham	do.	Satisfactory
17. 9.47.	Cranwell (Hall Farm)	Well	Unsatisfactory
17. 9.47.	Leasingham (Moor Farm)	Deep Well	do.
30.10.47.	Swarby	Pump —	
30.10.47.	Kelby	Public Supply	do.
30.10.47.	Culverthorpe	do.	do.
		Pump —	
		Private Supply	do.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Informal Notices served ...	...	...	212
Informal Notices complied with ...	...	...	168
Statutory Notices served ...	...	...	—
Letters sent out ...	...	...	271
Matters referred to Surveyor	...	...	20
Complaints received	...	...	84
Complaints confirmed	...	...	76
Nuisances found ...	...	...	85

SYNOPSIS OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

Total number of Inspections made	...	3,421
Total number of re-inspections made	...	1,050

DWELLINGHOUSES.

	Insp'tns.	Re-Insp'tns.
Ordinary ...	212	146
Infectious Disease ...	39	3
Housing (Rural Housing Survey) ...	1,004	85
Housing Act (Overcrowding) ...	64	8
Prospective Council House Tenants	17	—
Scabies ...	—	—
Disinfections ...	32	—

SANITARY CONVENiences.

Water Closets ...	...	...	...	44	12
Pail Closets ...	...	...	...	18	15
Privies ...	...	...	...	112	78
Chemical Closets ...	...	...	...	6	—

REFUSE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL.

Ashpits ...	...	...	...	82	21
Ashbins ...	...	...	...	312	125
Tips ...	...	...	...	78	—

DRAINS.

Inspections	118	51
Smoke Tests	74	17
Water Tests	8	3

SEWERS, ETC.

Sewer Dykes	25	6
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FACTORIES.

Factories (with mechanical power)	29	8
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	32	4

FOOD STORAGE, PREPARATION, ETC.

		Insptns.	Re-Insptns.
Bakehouses (with mechanical power)		4	5
Bakehouses (without mechanical power)		2	5
Butchers Shops	...	10	32
Cowsheds	...	131	62
Dairies, Milkshops	...	12	12
Fish Frying Premises	...	5	17
Ice Cream Premises	...	10	20
Slaughter Houses	...	4	—
Meat and Food Inspection	...	118	—

MISCELLANEOUS.

Accumulations	...	19	10
Animals, Poultry, Etc.	...	31	29
Disinfestation	...	6	10
Meetings with Owners, Tradesmen	...	168	—
Miscellaneous (Sewage Works, Waste of Water, Etc.)	...	5	1
Offensive Trades	...	7	6
Piggeries	...	14	20
Rats and Mice	...	31	15
Sanitary Inspections	...	124	171
Schools	...	16	—
Special Visits	...	85	—
Moveable Dwellings	...	22	14
Works in Progress	...	115	—
Yards and Courts	...	17	6
Shops Acts	...	35	9
Water Supplies	...	62	24
Building Licences	...	72	—

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1875 — 1936.

Dwellinghouses	...	179	
Drains	...	56	
Water Service Pipes	...	14	
Accumulations removed	...	10	
Animal, Poultry, Etc.	...	29	
Ashbins and Ashpits	...	204	
Sinks	...	31	
Water Closets	...	69	
Dampness Remedied (Walls, Roof, Spouting)	...	51	
Fireplaces	...	24	
Miscellaneous (Washcoppers, Ventilation, Yards)	...	32	
Chimney Pots	...	6	
External Walls repointed	...	20	
Ceilings and Walls repaired	...	61	

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1947.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

Total number of Dwellinghouses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,312
Number of visits made for the purpose	1,649
Number of Dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	785

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	179
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Under all Sections	Nil.
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HOUSING ACT, 1936 — PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ...	36
Number of families dwelling therein	46
Number of persons dwelling therein	239
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	19
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6
Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	31
Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil.
Any other particulars with respect of overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	Nil.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for purpose of provisions as to Health, including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

	Inspsns.	No. of written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories (with mechanical power)	29	8	Nil
Factories (without do. do.)	32	4	Nil
Other premises under the Act including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises ...	12	2	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	73	14	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Particulars.	Number of Defects.		
	Found.	Remedied.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	4	4
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	...	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	1	1
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	...	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.) —			
Insufficient	2	2
Unsuitable or defective	5	5
Not separate for sexes	1	1
Other Offences —			
(Not including offences relating to home work or offences under section mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1947) ...	—	—	—
TOTAL	14	14

Referred to H.M. Inspector — Nil.

Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted — Nil.

JOHN W. SCHOLEY, M.B., CH.B.
Medical Officer of Health.

